

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MADRID 03660 111219Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 NEA-10 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SCSE-00

SCA-01 EURE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 /042 W

----- 060591

O 111018Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 5659

JOINT RESCUE CENTER RAMSTEIN

UNCLAS MADRID 3660

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CDES SP

SUBJECT: IRAN AIR FORCE 747 CRASH

REF: TEHRAN 4713 AND MADRID 3634

WORKING THROUGHOUT THE DAY OF MAY 10, SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL, AIDED BY LOCAL VILLAGERS RECOVERED THE REMAINS OF 15 PERSONS FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE IRANIAN AIR FORCE 747 WHICH CRASHED NEAR HUETE (CUENCA), SPAIN LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE REMAINS WERE BROUGHT TO THE HUETE DEPOSITO OR MORGUE, A FEW KILOMETERS OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN, WHERE THEY WERE EXAMINED BY DR. ROBERTO SANUDO GARCIA, FORENSIC SPECIALIST FROM MADRID. THREE OF THE U.S. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED. THEY ARE PAUL SCOTT HARDMAN, ROBERT IVOR WILSON AND WILLIAM SYLVESTER TOWNSEND. REMAINS OF THE THREE AS WELL AS THE OTHERS ABROAD THE AIRCRAFT ARE IN EXTREMELY BAD CONDITION. NONE OF THE BODIES IS COMPLETE, AND TWO OF THE FIFTEEN FOUND, BELIEVED TO BE WOMEN, ARE BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION. DR. SANUDO, HOWEVER ADVISED CONSULAR OFFICER THAT REMAINS OF 9 PERSONS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND THIS INCLUDES THE THREE U.S. CITIZENS, THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 03660 111219Z

THE PRESENTLY UNIDENTIFIED BODIES MAY BE THAT OF JOHN

B. FORSYTH. BODY IS THAT OF AN ADULT MALE OF MEDIUM BUILD LIGHT SKINNED WITH REDDISH BLOND HAIR TURNING GREY. DOCTOR EXPRESSED OPINION THAT FINGERPRINTS AND DENTAL CHARTS WOULD BE OF LITTLE USE BECAUSE OF THE CONDITION OF THE BODY. EMBASSY TEHRAN, MAY WISH HOWEVER TO APPROACH NOK FORSYTH TO DETERMINE WHETHER DESCRIPTION ABOVE FITS THAT OF FORSYTH AND OBATIN ANY OTHER INFORMATION, SUCH AS BONE DEFORMITIES, WHICH MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL TO AUTHORITIES IN ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION. PASSPORTS FOR HARDMAN, WILSON AND TOWNSEND HAVE BEEN FOUND. NO PASSPORT OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN FOUND BEARING THE NAME OF JOHN B FORSYTH. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS AT CRASH SITE, THROUGH OUT THE DAY OF MAY 10 AS WAS EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER. AMBASSADOR ADVISED CONSULAR OFFICER THAT WHILE IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIED 17 PERSONS HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT NUMBER AS WAS AWAITING PASSENGER AND CREW LIST FROM IRANIAN AIR FORCE TEHRAN. EARLY ON MAY 11 HOWEVER EMBASSY TEHRAN CONFIRMED NUMBER AS 17

SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL ARE STILL INVESTIGATING WRECKAGE, BUT ARE HAMPERED BY RECENT RAINS WHICH HAVE MADE ACCESS TO THE CRASH SITE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF KNEE DEEP MUD. FITEEN BODIES HAD BEEN FOUND AS OF 1930 LOCAL TIME MAY 10 AND AUTHORITIES EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT OTHERS WOULD BE RECOVERED. ACCORDING TO LOCAL OFFICIALS AND SEVERAL VILLAGERS WHO WITNESSED CRASH, AIRCRAFT WAS SIGHTED AT APPROXIMATELY 17:30 ON MAY 9 AS IT FLEW OVER ONE OF THE LOW HILLS IN ARES DURING RAINSTORM. VILLAGERS REPORT IT STRUCK TOP OF THE HILL FLEW ON FOR A FEW SECONDS AND THEN FELL. EXPLODING IMMEDIATELY. WRECKAGE SPREAD OVER A 6 KILOMETER SQUARE AREA. THE AIRCRAFT'S BLACK BOX WAS RECOVERED AND IS IN THE HANDS OF SPANISH AUTHORITIES. THE REMAINS OF THOSE RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE ARE PRESENTLY AT THE MORGUE IN HUETE. AUTHORITIES ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ALL FORMALITIES FOR THOSE IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS. AND WE EXPECT THAT REMAINS OF THOSE AMERICANS IDENTIFIED WILL BE RELEASED BY COURT AT THAT TIME. EMBASSY MAY ASSURED AS WE WILL EXTEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO REPRESENTATIVES OF LOGISTICS SUPPORT CORPORATION, WHOM WE ASSUME ARE ACTING BEHALF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MADRID 03660 111219Z

NEXT OF KIN OF U.S. CRASH VICTIMS.

FOR TEHRAN AND DEPARTMENT INFORMATION. CRASH SITE IS GUARDED BY SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL. WHILE CONSULAR OFFICER EXAMINED NUMBER OF DUCUMENTS BELONGING TO THREE U.S. CITIZENS SUCH AS PASSPORTS, BANK BOOKS LETTERS CREDIT CARDS, NO PERSONAL EFFECTS BELONGING TO ANY OF AMERICANS HAVE BEN INDENTIFIED SO FAR. BECAUSE OF EXPLOSION AND SUBSEQUENT FIRE AFTER CRASH, WE ARE

DOUBTFUL THAT MUCH PERSONAL PROPERTY WILL RECOVERED.
ALL DOCUMENTS OR U.S. PROPERTY FOUND AND IDENTIFIED
WILL BE TURNED OVER TO LOCAL COURT, AND WHEN
INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED, GIVEN TO EMBASSY.
STABLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, DEATHS, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID03660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760181-0429
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760568/aaaacgjj.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 4713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAN AIR FORCE 747 CRASH
TAGS: CGEN, CDES, EAIR, SP, US, IR, (HARDMAN, PAUL SCOTT), (WILSON, ROBERT IVOR), (TOWNSEND, SYLVESTER)
To: TEHRAN JOINT RESCUE CENTER RAMSTEIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006